

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 AID-20

IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NIC-01 /151 R

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ARA/PM/PLC - LTC WILLIAMS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 235702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ESTC, VE, CU, US

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN SHIPS IN CUBA TRADE

REF: (A) CARACAS DAO TELEGRAM 281935Z OF NOVEMBER 28, 1973

(B) STATE 143282, JULY 20, 1973

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED URGENTLY TO CONFIRM (OR CORRECT, AS THE CASE MAY BE) REFERENCED CARACAS DAO REPORT WHICH STATES THAT TWO VENEZUELAN NAVY VESSELS WERE TO HAVE DEPARTED FOR CUBA ON NOVEMBER 27 AND 29 TO LOAD 5,000 TONS OF CUBAN SUGAR.

2. THE CARRYING OF CUBAN SUGAR BY VENEZUELAN REGISTERED VESSELS WOULD MAKE VENEZUELA INELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FURTHER UNITED STATES AID UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961, AS AMENDED. SECTION 620(A)(3)(B) OF THE ACT PROHIBITS THE
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USE OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FUNDS TO FURNISH ASSISTANCE

(INCLUDING MAP TRAINING, FOR WHICH \$1 MILLION IS PROGRAMMED FOR VENEZUELA FOR FY 74) TO COUNTRIES WHICH FAIL TO TAKE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO PREVENT SHIPS OR AIRCRAFT UNDER THEIR REGISTRY FROM TRANSPORTING ANY EQUIPMENT, MATERIALS OR COMMODITIES FROM CUBA SO LONG AS CUBA IS GOVERNED BY THE CASTRO REGIME. WAIVER OF THIS INELIGIBILITY IS POSSIBLE ONLY UNDER SECTION 614 OF THE ACT, ON DETERMINATION BY THE PRESIDENT THAT AUTHORIZATION OF SUCH ASSISTANCE IS IMPORTANT TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES (THIS CORRECTS LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 1(A) OF REFERENCE B). NO SECTION

614 WAIVER HAS BEEN GIVEN TO DATE FOR VIOLATIONS OF CUBA DENIAL SANCTIONS.

3. WITH THIS BACKGROUND, TWO OPTIONS APPEAR FEASIBLE IF DAO REPORT IS CONFIRMED: (A) EMBASSY COULD INFORM GOV NOW OF OPERATIVE PROVISIONS OF FAA OR (B) EMBASSY COULD POSTPONE DEMARCHE UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 9 ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, IF DEMARCHE IS POSTPONED, SHIPS PRESUMABLY WOULD HAVE LEFT CUBA AND RETURNED TO VENEZUELA, MAKING FAA PROVISIONS MANDATORY IN ABSENCE OF PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.

4. IF DAO REPORT CONFIRMED AND EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FIRST OPTION, WHAT ARE PROSPECTS GOV WOULD ASK SHIPS TO RETURN? AT WHAT LEVEL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD PROBLEM BE DISCUSSED?

5. DEPARTMENT INVITES EMBASSY COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, SUGAR, EMBARGOES, TRADE CONTROLS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE235702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CCA:MHOFFENBERG:ARA:NC:MCFORRESTER:ABH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973111/aaaaaaaiq.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) CARACAS DAO TELEGRAM 281935Z OF, NOVEMBER 28, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01-Feb-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN SHIPS IN CUBA TRADE
TAGS: MASS, ESTC, VE, CU, US
To: CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005